

CPYRIGHT

193 [redacted]
 1044
 1944-2 MIKE MANFIELD

CIA Chief in Viet Nam Reported on Way Out

Richardson's Recall to Washington Seen
Prelude to Ouster on Lodge's Demand

By the Associated Press

The CIA chief in South Viet Nam is reportedly being called home in what may be the first step of a shakeup of American personnel in Saigon.

John H. Richardson is officially being recalled to Washington for consultations. But reliable sources indicate that Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge wants him replaced as head of the Central Intelligence Agency mission in South Viet Nam.

The report of Mr. Richardson's recall came only three days after Secretary of Defense McNamara and Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, completed an inspection trip in Viet Nam and reported to President Kennedy.

Mr. Richardson has been one of the key architects of the United States effort to help President Ngo Dinh Diem's government oust Communist guerrillas and State Department sources gave him good marks in this respect.

Lodge, CIA Clashes Reported

But there have been persistent reports of differences between Mr. Lodge and the CIA mission and other agencies operating under Mr. Lodge's general direction in attempting to straighten out United States-Viet Nam relations.

Mr. Richardson, it is reliably reported, won't return to South Viet Nam.

Mr. Lodge, named by President Kennedy as Ambassador to South Viet Nam at a time of worsening relations with the United States, is reported considering many changes in the United States staff in South Viet Nam, which has been torn by internal troubles with Buddhists as well as the Communist threat.

Mansfield Sounded Warning

It has been expected that Mr. Lodge would shake up the United States mission at Sai-

gon and get rid of a number of officials believed to have outlived their usefulness there. Senator Democratic Leader Mansfield recently warned that this country's efforts in South Viet Nam faced disaster unless all American agencies there responded promptly to policy changes ordered by President Kennedy.

Senator Mansfield's speech was viewed as a thinly veiled rebuke to the CIA for giving the impression that the United States spoke with two voices in South Viet Nam.

Mr. Richardson is listed by official Government sources as a first secretary in the Saigon Embassy. He has previously served most recently in Manila and Athens.

There have been persistent reports from Saigon that the various United States agencies have been split into two camps. One side, said to represent the views of high CIA and Pentagon officials, has supported the Diem regime as the best possible one to fight the enemy.

The other, said to comprise the majority of State Department officials, has been critical of the authoritarian nature of the Diem government. It has advocated a tougher American policy to force President Diem to "liberalize" his domestic policies.

In the recent crisis over the Buddhists, the CIA group has reportedly backed the government's harsh measures, while the State Department camp has been very critical of them.

Similar AP stories appeared in